

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 9-13 without prejudice or disclaimer.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

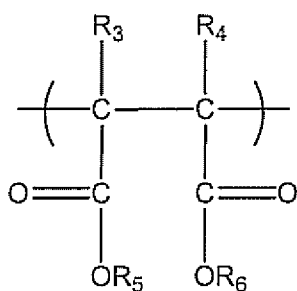
1. (Original) A method of decreasing nitrogen volatilization comprising the step of coating a fertilizer product with a polymer to form a coated fertilizer product, said fertilizer product being selected from the group consisting of phosphate-based fertilizers, organic wastes, waste waters, fertilizers containing nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, or molybdenum materials, fertilizers containing micronutrients, and oxides, sulfates, chlorides, and chelates of such micronutrients.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, said polymer being 100% saturated with calcium.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, said polymer being 50% saturated with hydrogen and 50% saturated with calcium.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, said polymer including the salt form thereof.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, said polymer coating comprising at least about 0.005% by weight of said coated fertilizer product.

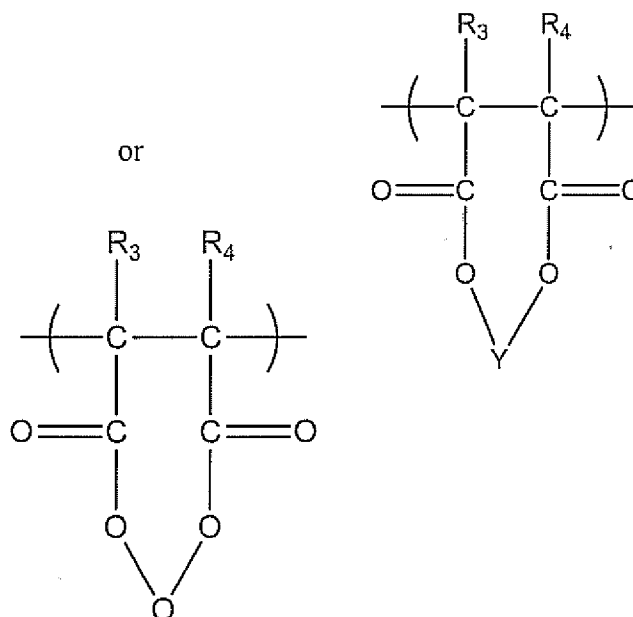
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, said polymer coating comprising at least about 0.01% by weight of said coated fertilizer product.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, said polymer coating comprising at least about 0.5% by weight of said coated fertilizer product.

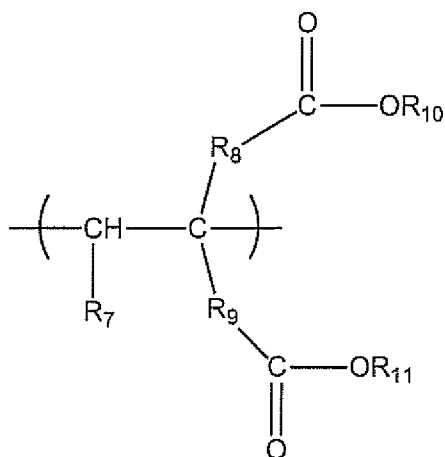
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, said polymer comprising recurring polymeric subunits each made up of at least two different moieties individually and respectively taken from the group consisting of B, and C moieties, or recurring C moieties, where moiety B is of the general formula



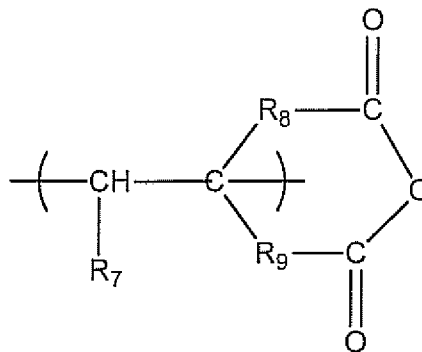
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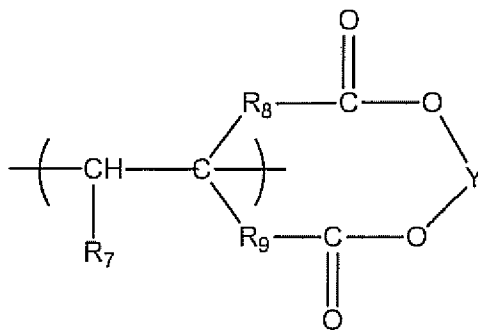
and moiety C is of the general formula



or



or

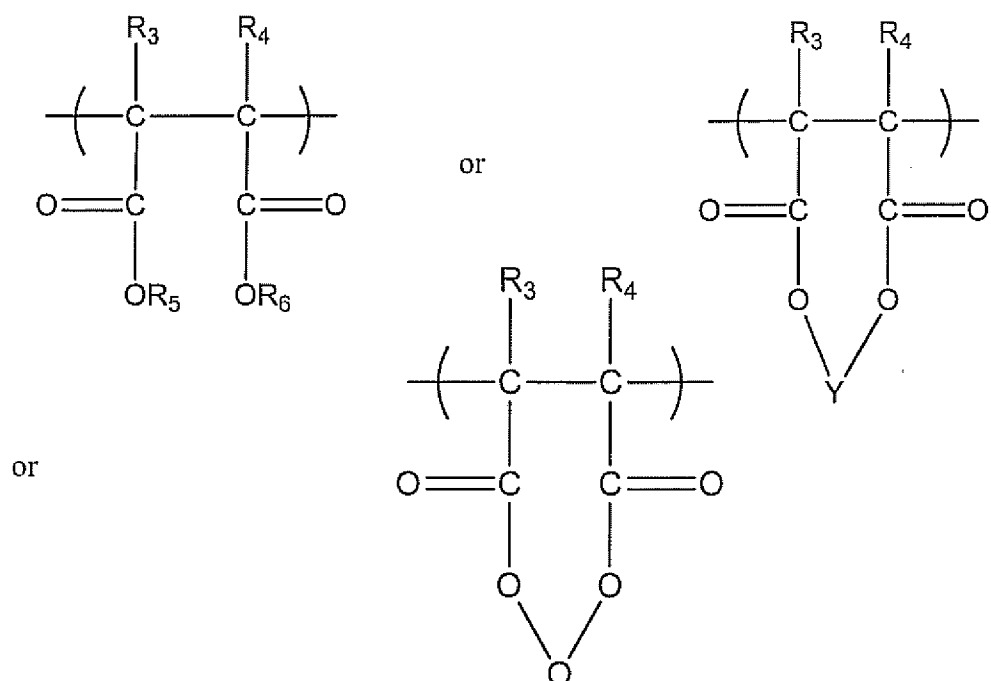


wherein each  $R_7$  is individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, OH,  $C_1$ - $C_{30}$  straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups,  $C_1$ - $C_{30}$  straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl based ester groups,  $R'CO_2$  groups,  $OR'$  groups and  $COOX$  groups, wherein  $R'$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{30}$  straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups and  $X$  is selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals,  $NH_4$  and the  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl ammonium groups,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1$ - $C_{30}$  straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$  are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals,  $NH_4$  and the  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl ammonium groups,  $Y$  is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca, and  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of nothing (i.e., the groups are non-existent),  $CH_2$ ,  $C_2H_4$ , and  $C_3H_6$ , each of said moieties having or being modified to have a total of two COO groups therein.

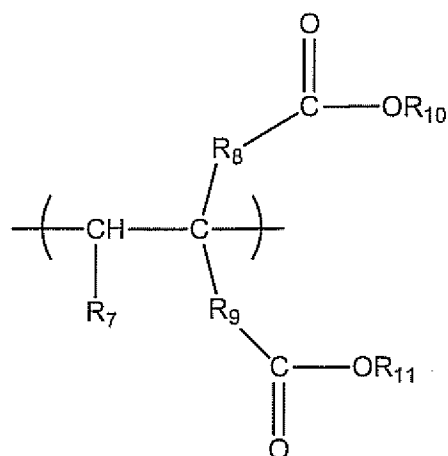
9.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A method of decreasing fertilizer dust comprising the step of coating a fertilizer selected from the group consisting of said fertilizer being selected from the group consisting of phosphate-based fertilizers, organic wastes, waste waters, fertilizers containing nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, or molybdenum materials,

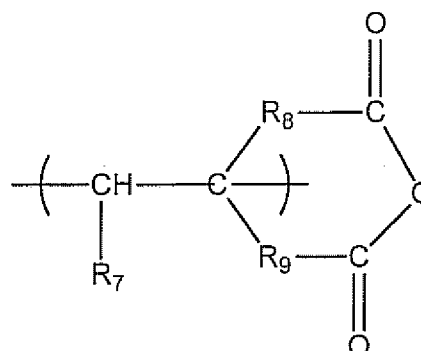
fertilizers containing micronutrients, and oxides, sulfates, chlorides, and chelates of such micronutrients with comprising recurring polymeric subunits each made up of at least two different moieties individually and respectively taken from the group consisting of B, and C moieties, or recurring C moieties, where moiety B is of the general formula



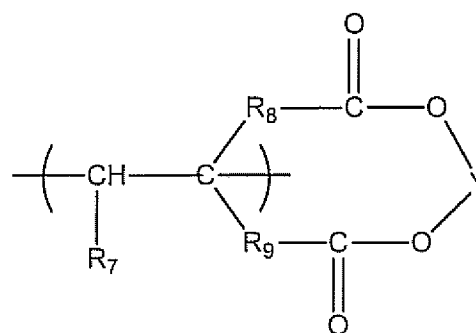
and moiety C is of the general formula



or



or

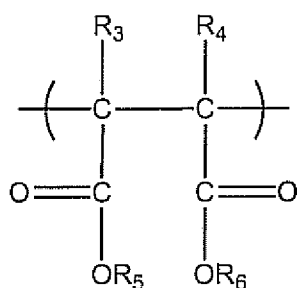


wherein each R<sub>7</sub> is individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, OH, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>30</sub> straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>30</sub> straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl based ester groups, R'CO<sub>2</sub> groups, OR' groups and COOX groups, wherein R' is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>30</sub> straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups and X is selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals, NH<sub>4</sub> and the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl ammonium groups, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>30</sub> straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali

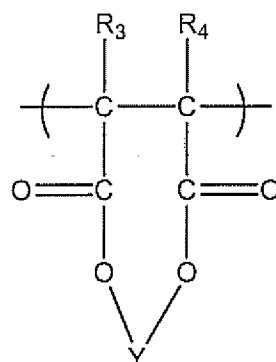
metals,  $\text{NH}_4$  and the  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$  alkyl ammonium groups, Y is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca, and  $\text{R}_8$  and  $\text{R}_9$  are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of nothing (i.e., the groups are non-existent),  $\text{CH}_2$ ,  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ , and  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6$ , each of said moieties having or being modified to have a total of two COO groups therein.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, said polymer coating being at a level of at least about 0.005% w/w.

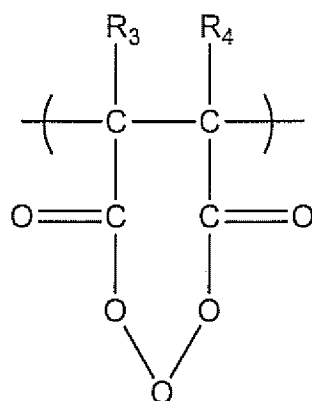
16. (Original) A method of decreasing fertilizer dust comprising the step of coating fertilizer with a dicarboxylic acid polymer composition, said fertilizer being selected from the group consisting of said fertilizer being selected from the group consisting of phosphate-based fertilizers, organic wastes, waste waters, fertilizers containing nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, or molybdenum materials, fertilizers containing micronutrients, and oxides, sulfates, chlorides, and chelates of such micronutrients, said polymer having recurring polymeric subunits each made up of at least two different moieties individually and respectively taken from the group consisting of B and C moieties, or recurring C moieties, wherein moiety B is of the general formula



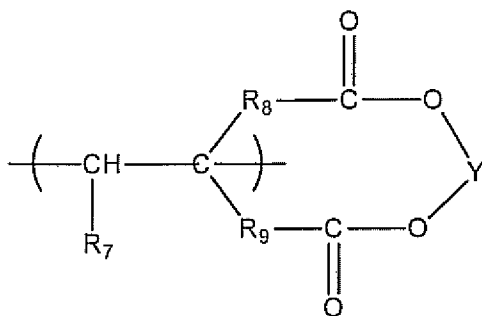
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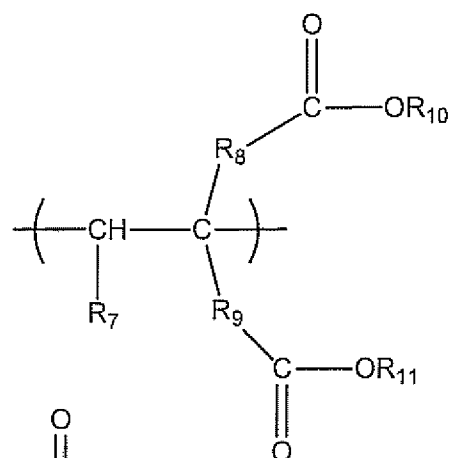
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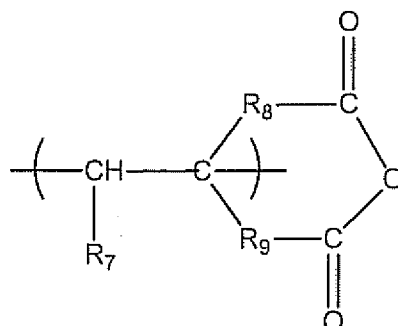
and moiety C is of the general formula



or



or





wherein each  $R_7$  is individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, OH,  $C_1$ - $C_{30}$  straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups,  $C_1$ - $C_{30}$  straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl based ester groups,  $R'CO_2$  groups,  $OR'$  groups and  $COOX$  groups, wherein  $R'$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{30}$  straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups and  $X$  is selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals,  $NH_4$  and the  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl ammonium groups,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1$ - $C_{30}$  straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$  are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals,  $NH_4$  and the  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl ammonium groups,  $Y$  is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca, and  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of nothing (i.e., the groups are non-existent),  $CH_2$ ,  $C_2H_4$ , and  $C_3H_6$ , each of said moieties having or being modified to have a total of two COO groups therein.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, said polymer comprising at least about 0.005% by weight of said coated fertilizer.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, said polymer comprising at least about 0.01% by weight of said coated fertilizer.